

amino acids begins with a methionine start codon of the published ORF23 sequence (A.J. Davison & J.E. Scott. (1986), J. Gen. Virol. 67, 1759-1816) as shown in this Figure.

Page 3, paragraph 2 should read:

In one embodiment of the invention, an immunoreactive peptide is provided which is homologous with the AA 12 (SEQ ID NO: 7) to 235 region of VZV VP26. In another embodiment, a nucleic acid is provided which hybridizes under stringent conditions with a nucleic acid that encodes an immunoreactive peptide that is homologous with the AA 12 to 235 region (SEQ ID NO: 7) of VZV VP26 wherein the peptide is recognized by antibodies directed against VZV but not recognized by antibodies which are directed against other herpes-viruses. In yet another embodiment, an immunochemical method is provided for detecting antibodies against VZV in a sample, comprising the step (a) contacting an immunoreactive peptide as described in claim 1 with the sample and (b) determining binding between antibody in the sample and the peptide. Another embodiment of the invention is a method for detecting VZV from a sample comprising the steps of contacting a nucleic acid as described above with the sample to allow hybridization of the nucleic acid, and determining the presence of nucleic acid hybrid formed. Yet another embodiment is a test kit for detecting antibodies against VZV, which comprises an immunoreactive peptide as described above or a nucleic acid which codes for such an immunoreactive peptide.

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Pages 4-5, paragraph 8, lines 1-3 through 1-¹²~~11~~ should read:

The present invention consequently relates to an immunoreactive peptide (a peptide that cross-reacts with antibody specific to VP26) that is homologous with the AA 12 to 235 (SEQ ID